

Item #67: Cattle Grazing in Water Howellia Habitats

Purpose: Monitoring the use of cattle grazing in water howellia ponds was conducted to reduce or eliminate possible cattle impacts where use may be occurring.

Methods: An extensive inventory was conducted in 1995 to determine which ponds were affected by cattle use. In 1997/1998, barricades were constructed at four water howellia ponds to prevent cattle use. Monitoring of these ponds and others has continued concurrently with the 10-year monitoring plan. Indications of cattle use (waste, hoof prints) were recorded for each occupied pond and u-pond.

Results: Cattle use has not been detected at any monitored ponds from 1999 through 2007.

Recommendations: Continued annual monitoring of cattle use is recommended for all ponds adjacent to roads or forest clearings within active grazing allotments on a periodic basis (3-5 years).